

*Lamar Did Exactly Right*

We have had a choice selection of news and comment on the Lamar-Williams row in the National House of Representatives, for our mental grazing, and we have absorbed about all the facts in the case and the comments thereon.

We are fully aware of the fact that our opinion of John Sharp Williams will not have any effect on the political fortunes of Congressman Williams, and would have kept it screened from the public gaze if the remarkable performances of the gentleman had not reached across the Florida border and TOUCHED THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA through one of their servants now doing duty in Congress.

Because he has done this, we now give utterance to the opinion we formed sometime ago, and pronounce the gentleman from Mississippi an incompetent leader; a compromising, easy going, power worshipping Democrat; and a small, biased, unjust man.

He stood convicted of all three counts in our indictment against him when he left Mr. Lamar, and Mr. Shackleford off the Interstate Commerce Committee because these two gentlemen did not agree with him last session on the rate regulation question.

Mr. Williams showed his incompetency as a leader by committing so impolitic an act as this open and flagrant insult to two of the small minority he has undertaken to lead to the accomplishment of good to the country through the adoption of Democratic principles.

It is an unwise leader who chastises his soldiers when the enemy is so much stronger in numbers, and the fight is just about to begin. When Napoleon took command of the army of Italy, he did not find fault with a single man for his ragged appearance or his breaches of discipline. He overlooked their faults and kindled their enthusiasm by pointing to the fertile plains of Italy and inviting them to the feast.

Napoleon lead HIS MINORITY to glorious victory and enormous heaps of spoils taken from the enemy.

Williams has lead HIS MINORITY to defeat and has seen THEM DESPOILED by the victorious enemy.

The minority leader has several times shown himself a compromising, easy-going, power-worshipping Democrat.

In the last Democratic national convention he was found in the ranks, and was mouthpiece for the Belmont-Ryan-McCarren Wall Street brand of Democracy, that saddled the placid, colorless, learned one of Esopus on the Democratic host, that needed a Saul, not a Daniel, to lead them against the foe.

In the last Congress Mr. Williams exhibited his right to the title of compromising, easy-going, power-worshipping Democrat when he so complacently fell into the net that his Republican friends spread for him on the tariff reform question and the rate regulation question.

The Mississippi statesman read his title clear to the charge we bring against him as a small, biased, unjust man, in his action against Messrs. Lamar and Shackleford.

It was small because he used the power vested in him by his party to punish two of his party whose views WERE NOT HIS VIEWS on a matter of party policy.

It was biased because he was unable to see merit in the view taken by Lamar and Shackleford on the rate regulation question, when that view was not his view, although the view of Lamar and Shackleford HAS BECOME THE VIEW OF A MAJORITY OF CONGRESSMEN.

The action was unjust, because Mr. Williams accused the two gentlemen of breaking the rule of a Democratic caucus; when Mr. Lamar proved clearly that NO CAUCUS HAD BEEN CALLED ON THE RATE REGULATION QUESTION when the rule was made. On the contrary, the meeting was held for the purpose of considering a matter personal to Mr. Williams—the question of his resignation of his leadership.

Mr. Lamar DID PERFECTLY RIGHT TO PROTEST against the unjust action of this discredited leader, and the proper time to do it was the VERY FIRST TIME HE HAD A CHANCE.

As to the Williams remark that Democratic dirty linen should not be washed in presence of Republicans—this comes under the head of buncomb, and belongs on the list of high-sounding but cheap clap-trap used by persons SHORT ON LOGIC AND LONG ON WIND.

If the immaculate shirt front of Democracy was soiled, Mr. Williams was the man who put the dirt on it, and being soiled, let us not be too particular about the place of the cleansing; let's be sure that the washing is done PROMPTLY AND WELL.

Some of Mr. Lamar's critics have hurled the terrible accusation against him that he was thrusting himself into the limelight. Well, THAT'S WHAT WE PAY HIM FOR.

The calcium glare is a good thing to turn on Congressmen, and when it shows them FIGHTING FOR A POSITION ON AN IMPORTANT COMMITTEE WHERE THEY CAN DO GOOD SERVICE FOR THE PEOPLE THEY REPRESENT, as did Mr. Lamar, lucky is the State that has a limelight-loving servant.

See "In The Sun's Chariot," page 11, for extension of time of Prize Story contest.

*Thanks for the Buckman Law*

It will only be sometime hence when the utility, practicability, benefits and good common-sense of Harry H. Buckman's school bill will be fully understood and comprehended by the masses, for unfortunately a good measure, such as his is, is slow to be accepted and assimilated by the public.

Hard has been the fight as to the constitutionality of his bill by which the State colleges are consolidated, but Mr. Buckman, when he framed that bill, knew exactly what he was about and that the bill would stand the test and live.

It is again a case of the survival of the fittest.

It was a signal triumph that the bill passed. By far greater is the triumph of its passage through the courts and its acceptance on the ground that it is constitutional.

Now that the bill has become a law its opponents will know that their wrath and abundant indignation availed not, and they will have time to gradually absorb this bill's good points and rejoice over this measure.

It is a measure of COMPLETENESS, FULLNESS AND WHOLESOMENESS.

It is a measure which means CONCENTRATION; the establishment of a university in its true and full sense; the uniformity of grades in every county of the State.

In addition to this, it eliminates the worry, care, excitement and friction caused by local and sectional bickerings and disagreements. It SAVES MONEY FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA, for it has brought about radical changes by a saving to the taxpayer.

Its greatest benefit will be the concentration of the funds of the State



upon a system of higher education. In this direction alone, aside from all other benefits, Florida will feel the greatest beneficial results as the youth of the various counties reap the advantages which this bill brings to them.

Especially will the public free school system of Florida show a healthy improvement and a higher standard, for the Buckman bill assures the public school system that care and attention in the future which it has been wanting in the past.

Local feelings and interests in certain towns of the State, which will feel what their enthusiasts have termed "a hard blow to our (local) community," will soon rally from the seeming shock. The citizens will find that time will heal that wound—be it a deep one or only a scar—and they will rejoice in their enforced surrender of their institutions the quicker they realize and understand the vast benefits IN GENERAL which will accrue to the entire State. Then, too, will they be in a thankful spirit for WHAT THEY HAVE HAD.

The very condition of things demanded a Buckman bill. The condition has been met and the results of the new order of things will soon and ever afterward prove and be acknowledged as for the very best for all concerned in the vast and important field of education in Florida.

Former-President Richard A. McCurdy of the Mutual Life Insurance company has developed a bad cough, so his physician says. It cannot be more serious than the cough-up spell he recently had when he gave up that big fat job as president of the Mutual Life.